

SNE Welcomes the “EFSA and ECDC rapid outbreak assessment on cereulide incident: likelihood of exposure low”¹

Food safety and regulatory compliance are non-negotiable for our industry. We therefore welcome the joint Rapid Outbreak Assessment concerning the recent food safety incident involving cereulide contamination, which was published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)².

The Assessment provides a comprehensive overview of the epidemiological and food safety investigations conducted across several countries. It describes the identification of the contamination source, the scope of affected products, and the control measures implemented. It outlines how traceability investigations and enhanced testing supported the withdrawal and recall of potentially affected infant formula products from the market and the interruption of supply of the contaminated ingredient.

Importantly, the Assessment concludes that the large-scale recall, alongside public warnings and the interruption of distribution of the contaminated ingredient, has significantly reduced the risk. As a result, the joint EFSA-ECDC assessment concludes that “**the current likelihood of exposure is considered low**”.

Our sector will continue to cooperate closely with EU and national authorities, in accordance with the new outbreak assessment, as well as with the EFSA rapid risk assessment, published on 2 February 2026³. Please refer also to SNE’s statement of 3 February 2026⁴.

Context: The presence of cereulide was detected in certain batches of arachidonic acid (ARA) oil provided by a supplier. Cereulide is a toxin produced by some strains of *Bacillus cereus*, which can cause nausea and vomiting. It is particularly stable and resistant to heat, acidic conditions and digestive enzymes. Its occurrence in ARA oil is very uncommon. ARA oil is an omega-6 fatty acid and an ingredient used in the food industry. Infant formula manufacturers use it in some products, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/127.

The health of infants and the food safety and quality of products remain our sector’s highest priorities.

Media Contacts:

- For specific information that relates to products, brands or recalls of specific manufacturers, please contact the company in question.
- For further general information, please contact: Beat Späth, Secretary-General of SNE: b.spath@specialisednutritioneurope.eu

¹ [EFSA and ECDC rapid outbreak assessment on cereulide incident: likelihood of exposure low | EFSA](#)

² [Multi-country foodborne event caused by cereulide in infant formula products | EFSA](#)

³ [Rapid risk assessment on acute reference dose \(ARfD\) of cereulide in infants and information on acute consumption of infant formulae - - 2026 - EFSA Journal - Wiley Online Library](#)

⁴ <https://www.specialisednutritioneurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/SNE-Recalls-Statement-3-February-2026-1.pdf>